European Tech Champions Act Simulation: Role Handout

The Pirate Academy was made possible by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament.

Parliament: EPP

Confidential: for the assigned participant only. Do not share with other participants, including members of your own institution. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions. Roles are institutional functions, never named living individuals.

The Parliament in this scenario

Five or six political groups sit in the Parliament: EPP (188 seats), S&D (136), ECR (78), Renew Europe (77) and Greens/EFA (53), and Patriots for Europe (84, voting together with the 25 seats of Europe of Sovereign Nations) if cast. A text is adopted if the groups voting in favour hold at least **361 seats**. Each group votes as one bloc. The Left, the non-attached members and, if the Patriots are not cast, Europe of Sovereign Nations are not played and count as not voting in favour. Count before you argue: with the core cast, there is no majority without the EPP. On day 1 you build a Parliament mandate with the other groups; on day 2 you defend and trade it in the trilogue against the Council. The rules in full are in the general factsheet.

Your position in October 2025

The European People's Party is the largest group in the Parliament with 188 seats, and the President of the Commission comes from your political family. With the core cast, no majority in this Parliament exists without you. That is your power and your burden: everyone will come to you, and every majority you build will be read as a choice of partners.

In 2025 the EPP has made competitiveness and simplification its central theme. You led the push to cut reporting obligations for companies, and you have shown that you can build majorities both with the centre (S&D and Renew) and with the groups to your right. Your national delegations are divided on money: the German and Dutch members are against joint debt, while the Italian, Spanish and Polish members want European money for their regions.

What the EPP wants from this act is a programme that helps European companies grow, protects European technology against hostile takeovers, does not add bureaucracy, does not raise taxes, and gives the Parliament a real say in how the money is spent.

Your needs, wants and pain points

Needs (+3 each if fully met)

1. **Parliament oversight (Articles 5 and 8).** Fully met: the Parliament has a formal role in the work programmes (for example as delegated acts, or an observer in the Board) and receives an annual report. Partly met (+1): an annual report only.
2. **Simple for companies (Article 4 or a new article).** Fully met: the text sets a maximum time from application to grant (for example six months) and simplified procedures for SMEs. Partly met (+1): a general commitment to simplification.
3. **Security standards (Article 7).** Fully met: suppliers from high-risk third countries are excluded from critical infrastructure funded by the programme, and every acquisition of a beneficiary by a third-country buyer must be notified and screened. Partly met (+1): one of the two.

Wants (+2 each if fully met)

1. **A tech forum with political seats (new article).** The act creates a high-level forum on European technology in which Members of the European Parliament sit alongside industry and governments. Partly met (+1): a forum without Parliament seats.
2. **No new taxes (block B).** The line "new own resource" is zero. No partial.
3. **Private leverage (block A).** The co-investment target is at least three times the public envelope. Partly met (+1): at least twice.

Pain points (-5 each if they happen)

1. **Money without control (Article 8, block C).** National or regional envelopes exist without audit by the European Court of Auditors and OLAF. Partly (-2): the envelopes are audited by the Court of Auditors or by OLAF, but not both.
2. **New burdens on beneficiaries (Article 4).** Binding labour conditions or mandatory ethics vetting apply to beneficiaries receiving less than EUR 50 million. Partly (-2): such conditions above EUR 50 million.

Confidential (for you alone)

Your leadership has given you a free hand on partners. What it wants above all is that the result is visibly an EPP result: that the final compromise carries your group's main ideas and that you, not the Commission or S&D, are seen to have built the majority. You can accept a larger envelope financed by loans and reprogramming. You can also accept borrowing for grants if the Council can carry it, but your German members will vote against it with a heavy heart.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Majority:** EPP + S&D (324) is not enough. You need Renew (401), the Greens (377) or the ECR (402). With the Patriots cast, EPP + ECR + Patriots (375) is a majority to your right. Keep at least two options open until the end.

- **Oversight:** S&D, Renew and the Greens want it too. The Commission and the Council are in your way.
- **Simplification and leverage:** Renew, ECR and Germany are allies. S&D and the Greens want conditions.
- **Security:** Renew, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands (if cast) are allies.
- **No taxes:** ECR, the Patriots (if cast) and Renew are allies against S&D and the Greens.

What you can give away

A climate tag up to 30%; quantum and defence earmarks; a moderate share of national envelopes, if they are audited; social conditions for very large beneficiaries; a talent initiative; sandboxes.

If there is no deal

Your no-deal score is **-1**. As you are the pivot of the Parliament, a failure will be read as your failure to build a majority. Use your position to shape the deal, not to block it.

Scorecard: EPP

For the peer scorer. Score the final text, or record the no-deal score if no act is adopted. Each item scores once, at the highest level reached.

Item	Fully met if	Partly met if	Points	Score
Need 1: oversight (Art. 5 and 8)	Parliament role in work programmes and annual report	annual report only (+1)	+3	
Need 2: simple for companies (Art. 4 or new)	maximum time-to-grant and SME procedures	general commitment to simplification (+1)	+3	
Need 3: security (Art. 7)	high-risk suppliers excluded and acquisitions notified and screened	one of the two (+1)	+3	
Want 1: tech forum (new article)	forum with Parliament seats	forum without Parliament seats (+1)	+2	
Want 2: no new taxes (block B)	own resource zero	no partial	+2	
Want 3: leverage (block A)	co-investment target at least three times the envelope	at least twice (+1)	+2	
Pain 1: money without control (Art. 8, block C)	envelopes without Court of Auditors and OLAF audit	audited by one of the two only (-2)	-5	
Pain 2: new burdens (Art. 4)	binding labour or ethics conditions below EUR 50 million	such conditions only above EUR 50 million (-2)	-5	
Total				
No-deal score			-1	